Personal Health Record (PHR)
Selected Questions & Answers per CMS and HealthIT.gov

1. **What is a PHR?**
   a. A PHR is an electronic application through which patients can maintain and manage their health information (and that of others for whom they are authorized) in a private, secure, and confidential environment.
   b. PHRs focus on providing individuals with the ability to manage their health information and to control, to varying extents, which can access that health information. A PHR has the potential to provide a way to create longitudinal health history[1].

2. **Does KHIE have a PHR? If so, is there a cost incurred for using KHIE's PHR?**
   a. Yes, KHIE has stood up its own PHR which will allow patients the ability to upload all relevant health information and communicate securely with their physicians and other health care providers.
   b. No, KHIE does not charge its providers for adopting its PHR.

3. **Does KHIE's PHR allow providers to schedule and bill?**
   a. Unfortunately, KHIE's PHR does not allow for scheduling and billing at this time. The main purpose of KHIE's PHR is to provide patients with the ability to communicate their health information among their respective physicians. Additionally, the PHR satisfies the requirements to meet Stage 2 and 2014 objectives for Meaningful Use related to patient consumer engagement.

4. **What is the importance of a PHR?**

A PHR is a collection of information pertinent to a patient's health. A PHR may include:

   a. Contact information for the patient or family members
   b. A list of providers involved in the patient's care
   c. Diagnosis list
   d. Medications list
   e. Allergy list
   f. Immunization history
   g. Lab and test results
   h. Family medical history

PHRs can help your patients better manage their care. PHRs can:

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[1] Most PHRs also provide individuals with the capability to control who can access the health information in the PHR, and because PHRs are electronic and generally accessible over the Internet, individuals have the flexibility to view their health information at any time and from any computer.

a. Improve Patient Engagement
b. Coordinate and Combine Information from Multiple Providers
c. Help to Ensure Patient Information is Available
d. Reduce Administrative Costs
e. Enhance Provider – Patient Communication
f. Encourage Family Health Management

5. **What is the difference between a PHR, an Electronic Health Record, and an Electronic Medical Record?**
   a. A PHR contains the same types of information as an EHR—diagnoses, medications, immunizations, family medical history, and contact information for providers—but it is designed to be set up and accessed by patients themselves.
   b. An electronic health record (EHR) is built to share information with other health care providers, such as laboratories and specialists. They contain information from all clinicians involved in the patient's care and authorized clinicians can access the information they need, to provide care to that patient.
   c. An electronic medical record (EMR) is a digital version of the paper charts in a doctor's office. They contain primarily the notes and information collected by and for the clinicians in that office.

6. **How can a PHR help meet MU consumer engagement requirements?**
   a. The PHR will allow patients to securely view, download, or transmit their patient health information to other providers. Additionally, the PHR, along with Direct secure clinical messaging will allow providers and patients to directly communicate protected health information for care coordination.

7. **How will this be implemented within an EMR?**
   a. The PHR can be implemented in two different ways, a *standalone* or *tethered, connected* PHR.
      i. Standalone PHRs allow patients to fill in their information from their own records and memories and the data is stored on the patients' computers or on the internet.
      ii. Tethered or connected PHRs are linked to a specific health care organization's EHR system or a health plan's information system. The patient access the information through a secure portal. When a PHR is connected to the patient's legal medical record it is protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule.

8. **Who has access to the PHR?**
   a. Only the patient has access to their PHR and can decide whether to share information with providers, family members, or anyone else involved in their care.

9. **Can providers, talk securely with patients via the PHR?**
   a. Yes, you can talk securely with your provider utilizing the PHR and Direct secure clinical messaging.

10. **Is a PHR considered a patient's complete medical record?**

a. No, a PHR is a tool to supplement a patient's medical record. It is not a complete view of a patient's health history and should be treated as such. The data contained within the PHR hinges on the patient's input of health information. Further, the PHR is not controlled by the provider and the health information is entered by the patient.